

Application No.: 09/622634
Docket No.: IM1185USPCT

Page 2

CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method for cutting a web (1) conveyed along a conveyance direction (F), and subsequent feeding and threading it up into a processing line (13), said web (1) comprising a central portion (1c) and edges (1a, 1b), the method comprising the steps of:

- ai*
- (i) cutting off at least one edge (1a, 1b) laterally from the central portion (1c);
 - (ii) cutting said at least one edge (1a, 1b) along a direction transverse to the conveyance direction (F);
 - (iii) taking up said at least one edge into the processing line (13) through edge channel(s) (4a, 4b);
 - (iv) securing said at least one edge in a pulling unit (11) *not sk.* located at the other extremity of the processing line (13); *not sk.*
 - (v) opening (15) the channel(s) (4a, 4b) to release said at least one edge; and
 - (vi) cutting the central portion (1c).

16. (Original) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to claim 15, wherein the taking up step (iii) comprises sucking the edges into tube channels (4a, 4b).

17. (Currently Amended) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, further comprising the step of forming a loop (12) of edges at the vicinity of the edge channel (4a, 4b) during step (ii).

18. (Currently Amended) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 17~~, claim 15 wherein both edges are processed.

19. (Original) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to claim 18, wherein said both edges are processed simultaneously.

20. (Original) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to claim 18, wherein said both edges are processed independently.

21. (Original) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to claim 20, wherein said both edges are processed sequentially.

Application No.: 09/622634
Docket No.: IM1185USPCT

Page 3

22. (Currently Amended) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~ claim 15, wherein the cutting step (i) comprises a step of keeping the central cutting means (2a, 2b) at a non-moving state for lateral cutting off the edges (1a, 1b) from the central portion (1c).

23. (Currently Amended) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 22~~ claim 15, wherein the cutting step (ii) comprises a step of instantaneous transversely cutting of the edges (1a, 1b).

24. (Currently Amended) Method for cutting and feeding a web (1) according to ~~any one of claims 15 to 23~~ claim 15, wherein the cutting step (vi) comprises moving the central cutting means (2a, 2b) towards each other transversely to the conveyance direction (F).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Original) Edge channel (4a, 4b) showing a section substantially closed and comprising movable lids (61, 7a, 6b, 7b).

27. (Original) Edge channel (4a, 4b) according to claim 26, comprising rotatably mounted inner and/or bottom plate (6a, 7a, 6b, 7b).

28. (Currently Amended) Edge channel (4a, 4b) according to claim 26 ~~or 27~~, comprising air jets arranged along it.
